

November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election

- **Suggested Deadlines to Qualify a Political Party Using the Random Sample Method**

If the raw count total equals 100% or more of the total number of signatures needed to qualify the political body as a political party, the elections official is required to verify 500 signatures or 3% of the number of signatures filed, whichever is greater. This process is referred to as a random sample. A county receiving less than 500 petition signatures is required to verify all the signatures filed in their office. If there is more than 110% of the required number of valid signatures to qualify the political party for the November 8, 2016, presidential general election, the petition will be qualified. (Elections Code § 9030.)

April 21, 2016 – Suggested last day for the political body to file the petition with county elections officials.

May 3, 2016 – Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

May 12, 2016 – Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether the petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate the random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

June 24, 2016 – Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify the results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

June 26, 2016 (E-135) – Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether the political body qualifies for the November 8, 2016, presidential general election or 100% signature verification is necessary. At this point, if 100% signature verification were necessary, the political body would not qualify to participate in the November 8, 2016, presidential general election.

- **Suggested Deadlines to Qualify a Political Party Using the Full Check Method**

If the result of the random sample indicates that the number of valid signatures represents between 95% and 110% of the required number of signatures to qualify the political body as a political party, the Secretary of State directs the county elections officials to verify every signature on the petition. This process is referred to as a full check. Within 30 working days of receipt of this notification, the county elections officials determine the total number of qualified signatures and transmit this information to the Secretary of State. (Elections Code § 9031.)

February 26, 2016 – Suggested last day for the political body to file the petition with county elections officials.

March 9, 2016 – Last day for county elections officials to complete raw count totals and certify raw numbers to the Secretary of State.

March 18, 2016 – Last day for Secretary of State to receive raw count total from each county elections official, determine whether the petitions meet the minimum signature requirement, generate the random sample, and notify each county elections official of results.

May 2, 2016 – Last day for county elections officials to verify and certify the results of the random sampling of signatures to the Secretary of State.

May 12, 2016 – Last day for Secretary of State to determine whether the petition qualifies or 100% signature verification is necessary.

June 24, 2016 – If 100% signature verification is necessary, last day for county elections officials to certify to the Secretary of State results of the 100% signature verification.

June 26, 2016 (E-135) – Last day for the Secretary of State to determine whether the political body qualifies to participate in the November 8, 2016, presidential general election.